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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by Viet Nam on 24 September 1996.

It would be highly appreciated if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 66.

(Signed) NGO QUANG XUAN
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam on the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

On 24 September 1996, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Viet Nam's signature of the Treaty demonstrates its consistent policy of commitment to supporting and actively contributing to the common efforts of the international community for peace, international security and disarmament, especially the efforts for nuclear disarmament towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Nuclear energy should and must be used only for peaceful purposes, serving the needs of human welfare.

Together with the signing of the Treaty, Viet Nam shares the common demand by the international community that all States must not conduct any nuclear testing in any form whatsoever. At the same time, Viet Nam is of the view that all countries should enhance their cooperation, scrupulously observing the ban on all nuclear testing together with commitments and actions to undertake concrete steps towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Viet Nam stands ready to cooperate with all countries for the effective implementation of the Treaty, contributing to a cleaner global environment and living conditions, enhancement of confidence and strengthening of international security, aimed at a more secure and healthy world. At the same time, Viet Nam further reaffirms its position that, in the implementation of the Treaty, the verification activities must be conducted in a fair and impartial manner, with absolute respect for the sovereignty of States.